Uintah Basin Fire Information Briefing

9/20/2016

Fire Danger				
	Ashley FDRA	Uintah FDRA	GBCC	National
Preparedness Level	2	3	2	2
Adjective Rating	High	High		
Response Level	Medium	Medium		

Fire Situation

5 new fires

National Sit Report

Staffing

Daily Resource Line-up

Other resources in the area:

Fire Weather

Significant WX events:

Deep low pressure system coming in from the north. Snow at the higher elevations with storms at the lower elevations.

ENSO-Neutral conditions are slightly favored (between 55-60%) during the upcoming Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2016-17.

Fire Weather Forecasts:

Grand Junction

Salt Lake City

FUELS

Narrative

Low elevation: ERCs have rebounded upwards since the rain, but this will be short lived. All live fuels are at seasonable lows- cured. 1000 hours are down to 8. Grass fuels will dry and be available.

High elevation: ERCs have dropped to the 61th percentile. Fuels are wet at higher elevations. All live fuels are cured.

Dead Fuel Moistures

	10 hr	100 hr	1000 hr
Ashley FDRA	3-5	7-9	8-10
Uintah FDRA	3-4	7-10	8-13

Diamond fuels site: 100hr-7% and 1000hr-6%, McCook fuels site: 100hr-9, 1000hr-10

Live Fuel Moistures

	Sage	Juniper	Pinyon	Ponderosa	Doug Fir	Spruce	Lodgepole
Cedar Springs		82(-5)	129(-5)				
Diamond	83(-29)	80(-9)	96(+6)				
Dry Fork	83(-38)	90(-23)					
East Park						110(-11)	110(+3)
Elk Park	84(-7)			101(+3)			
Fire Fighters Memorial	75(-22)			111(+11)			
McCook	99(+18)	89(+8)	98(-2)				
Horse Ridge	80(-31)				113(-6)		
Nutters Ridge	88(-29)	71(-6)	114(+2)				
Red Canyon	87(-18)			103(+1)			
Towanta Flat							
Yellowstone	105(-7)			148(+12)			

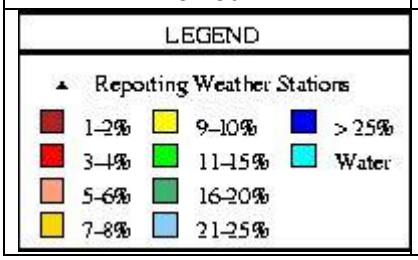
Superscript number in parenthesis is change from previous sampling

Fuel Moisture Key

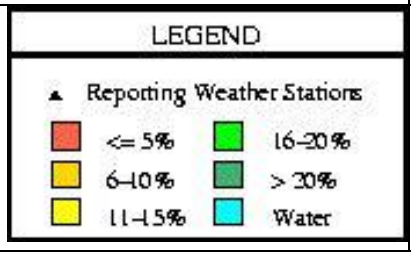
Live Fuel Moisture				
	fully cured	2/3 cured	1/3 cured	Fully green (uncured)
Live Herbaceous	30	60	90	120
Live Woody	60	90	120	150
Foliar moisture of conifers, below threshold of 100 transition to crown fire probable				

Dead Fuel Moistures

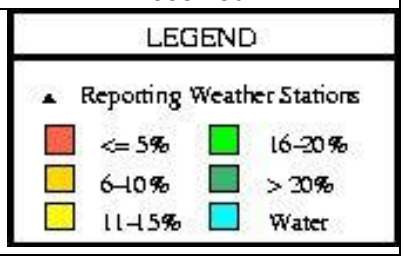
10 hour



100 hour



1000 hour

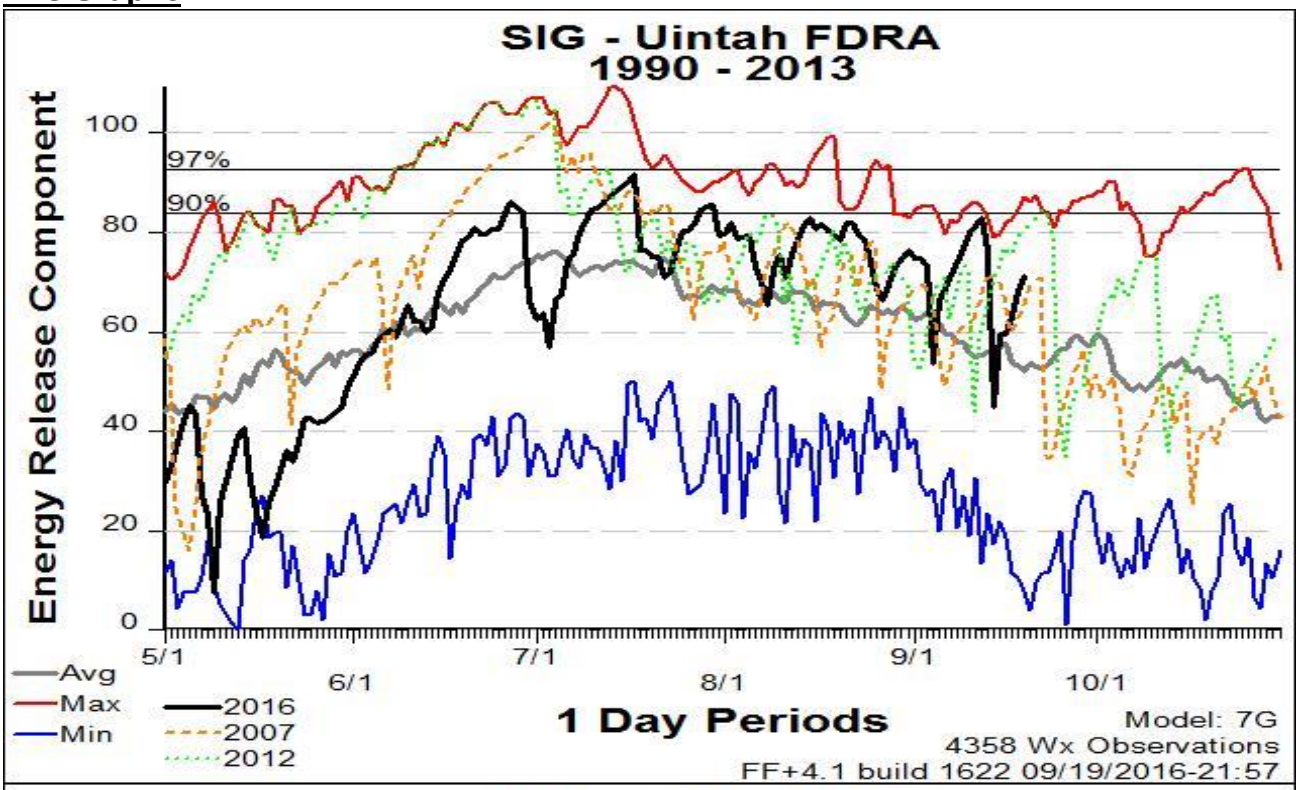


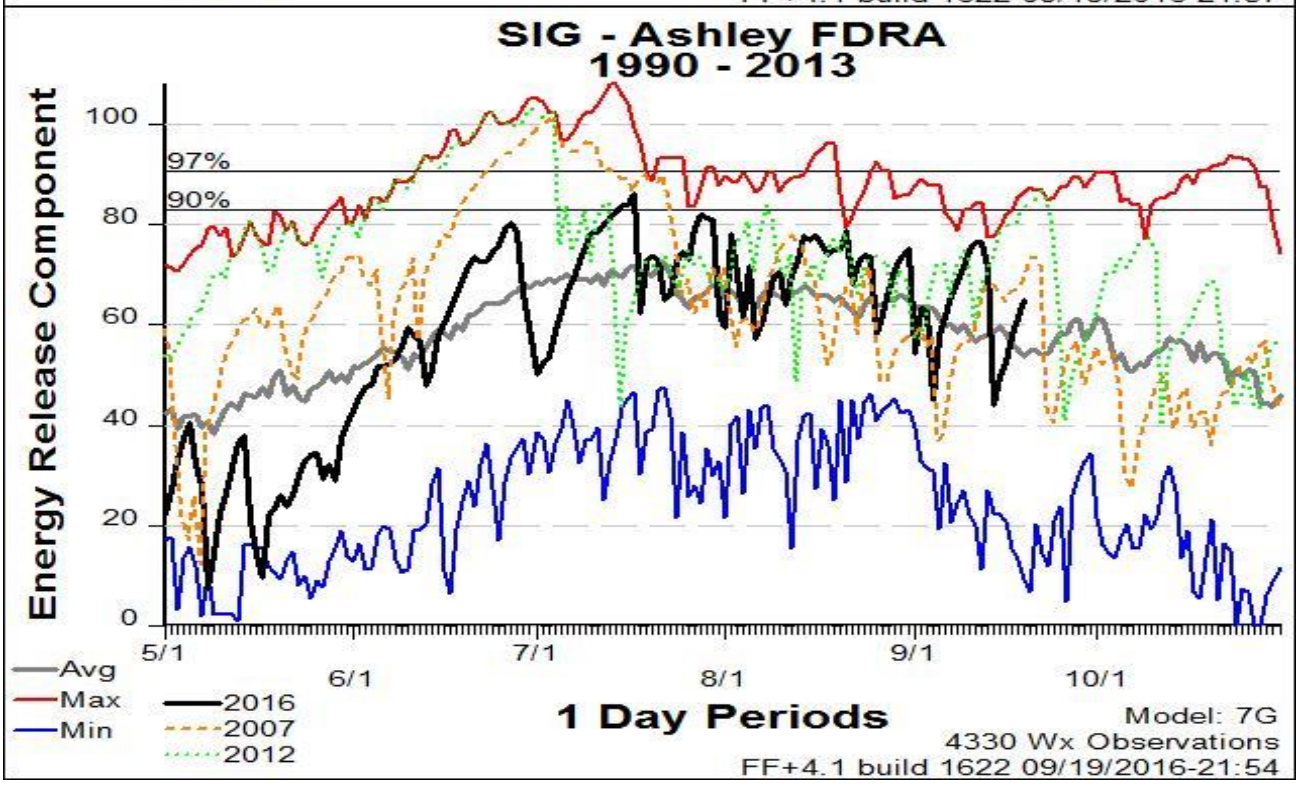
FIRE BEHAVIOR

Low elevation: The following discussion will only include where fuel moisture has dropped below moisture of extinction; fuels will be drying over the next several days. Expect high rates of spread in the cheatgrass and the sage/grass fuels. In the sage/grass fuels, expect high rates of spread even with 5 mph winds on flat ground; 20-25 ch/hr and flame lengths of 4-5 feet (>1mph for 15mph wind). In pure cheatgrass, even without much wind (5mph) or slope (0) expect 120-125 ch/hr (near 1.5 mph). Fine flashy fuels are a common denominator in tragedy fires. Probability of ignition will be around 55%. Spotting up to .1 miles from a wind driven fire.

High elevation: The following fire behavior discussion will only include where fuel moistures has dropped below moisture of extinction; fuels will be drying the next several days. Expect torching with heat build-up and wind in the timbered fuels. Rates of spread should be low to moderate, 3-7 ch/hr (4-8 feet/minute) with flame lengths at 1-3 feet, with higher concentrations burning more intensely. The sage at higher elevations is cured as well and fire could burn actively through the sage as well as grasses. Spotting distance from a torching tree could be upwards of .1 miles with 55% probability of ignition. As the heat builds, rate of spread will increase as well as ember loft. And, of course, all of this decreases significantly as the low pressure system drops plentiful moisture and maybe snow above 8000 feet.

ERC Graphs





6 Minutes for Safety